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14 JAN 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Handling of BLUE SPRINGS Product

1. This memorandum is in response to your request that an examination be made of the handling of BLUE SPRINGS photography in order to be sure that it is received and analyzed expeditiously and in proper channels.

2. BLUE SPRINGS

[redacted] film is transported by air to Tan Son Nhut Airfield, Saigon, where it is processed by a detachment of the 13th Recce Tech Squadron. On the average, an Immediate Photo Interpretation Report (IPIR) is issued by the field less than 24 hours after recovery [redacted]

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3. NPIC normally receives a duplicate positive of the film within two to four days from recovery. NPIC exploitation is on a Priority I basis and includes (a) an immediate scan of the DP in search of new or unreported information and if appropriate, the issuing of an immediate cabled report usually within 24 hours, (b) the preparation of briefing boards showing mission highlights and (c) further analysis and Mission Coverage Index (MCI) reporting. To date, photography from twelve BLUE SPRINGS missions has been received by NPIC and MCI's have been issued on ten. The remaining two missions encountered 100% cloud cover.

4. In brief, we feel that the BLUE SPRINGS product is being handled as expeditiously as is warranted. However, it is the Agency view, and we are on record in letters from the DDCI to Director, NRO, that this product should be processed and read out under nationally-sponsored facilities, rather than by DOD field units, as is now the case.

5. As you are aware, an NRO-chaired committee was set up in December 1964 with representation from CIA, DIA, USAF and NRO to

NRO review(s) completed.

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review policies and procedures for overseas processing and reporting from all sensitive photographic reconnaissance missions. While we are on record that BLUE SPRINGS material should be included in the review of "sensitive" missions -- and General Carroll has agreed with this -- the question of what is the proper channel for BLUE SPRINGS material will not be resolved until the committee has completed its work. A draft paper from that committee will be available for review and coordination in the next few days.

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(RAY S. CLINE
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

DDI/CGS/Recce:  (13 January 1965)

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